



FOFA Gallery

Kesso Saulnier

Histoires Fil'tisses

York Vitrines

September 11 – December 15,
2023

Vernissage
September 14, 5-7 pm

Monday to Friday
11 am to 6 pm

Tiohtià:ke / Montreal
1515 St-Catherine West,
H3G 2W1, EV 1-715
514 848-2424 #7962

[@fofagallery](http://concordia.ca/finearts/about/galleries-venues/fofa-gallery)

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Histoires Fil'tisses explores Kesso Saulnier's bond with her children and her various experiences of motherhood. She relates births, moments of grace, loss and grief, post-partum emotions, and the various metamorphoses of her body. The series sheds light on the artist's daily life, giving voice to an experience too often relegated to the shadows. The works, made from sketches reworked directly with thread, are inspired by the blues and jazz songs of Billie Holiday and Nina Simone. *Histoires Fil'tisses* is a response to *Histoires Mè'tisses* (presented at FIL: Festival international de la littérature in September 2023), a series that explores her connection to her biological mother and her native country (Guinea) through stories woven from poems and embroidery on indigo fabric.

Kesso Saulnier is an artist and poet of Guinean and Quebecois origins, whose work combines text, textiles and drawing. She sees her practice as a way of mending the holes and cracks in her history, generating new memories. She has exhibited her work and completed artist residencies in Quebec and abroad (Centre Canadien d'Architecture, CICA Museum, The Studios at MASS MoCA, Galerie FOFA, CIRCA Art Actuel, La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse, Spazio eLaSTiCo, ARTCH 2022). In 2021, she embroidered illustrations for the book *Ensemble nous voyageons*, written by Lula Carballo and Catherine Anne Laranjo, published by Editions Dent-de-lion. Her poems and embroideries will be presented at FIL (Festival international de la littérature) in autumn 2023.

[@kessoartiste](http://kessoart.wixsite.com/kesso)



List of works (from left to right)

Solitudes, 2022

Hand embroidery and hand stitching on linen and cotton

24 embroideries, 21 cm x 21 cm each

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Pregnant with Covid, 2023

Hand embroidery and stitching on linen and cotton

16 embroideries, 17.5 cm x 24.5 cm each

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Maternities, 2023

Hand embroidery and stitching on linen and cotton

30 embroideries, 18 cm x 25 cm each

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Crying Woman, 2022

Hand embroidery and hand stitching on linen and cotton

6 embroideries, 30 cm by 42.5 cm each

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Black Prelude, 2023

Hand embroidery and stitching on linen and cotton

49.5 cm x 1.89 m

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Histoires Fil'tisses, 2021

Hand embroidery and stitching on cotton

5 embroideries, 17 cm x 28 cm each